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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
for 1937 by
S. A. NIELD-FAULKNER
Medical Officer of Health




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PREESALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1937.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my **Seventeenth Annual Report**, being for the year 1937.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Cancer	3	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—
Congenital Debility	2	—
Diabetes	—	1
Heart Disease	3	7
Other Circulation Diseases	1	—
Nephritis	1	1
Pneumonia....	1	—
Semility	1	—
Violence	1	—
Other Defined Causes	1	—
Total from all Causes	15	14=29

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	27	13	14	
	Illegitimate	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
	Total	27	13	14	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.3
Stillbirths		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births Nil.
Deaths		29	15	14	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.3 *

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	—
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.	—
Total	Nil.	Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate : 2, male.

Illegitimate : Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 74

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 74

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) : 8

Deaths from Measles (all ages) : Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) : Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) : Nil.

5,966 Population	Live Birth Rate	Per 1,000 of Crude Death Rate	Estimated Population. Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate Per 1,000 live Births	Rate Per 1,000 total still & live births	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births
Mean of 5 years							
1932-36	11.5	13.4	0.19	2.96	8.33	7.40	32
1936	12.2	15.7	0.49	2.45	Nil.	Nil.	80
1937	13.3	14.3*	Nil	3.94	Nil	Nil	74
Increase or decrease in 1937 on 5 years' average							
1932-36	+1.8	+0.9	—0.19	+0.98	—8.33	—7.40	+42
Previous year	+1.1	—1.4	—0.49	+1.49	Nil	Nil	—6

* 1937 adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.88) = 12.5 per 1,000

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Area, 3,277 acres ; Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 2,027 ; No. of inhabited houses, 624 ; Rateable Value, £11,480 ; Sum represented by a penny rate, £47.

HEALTH SERVICES

Accommodation for Smallpox is available at Moss Side Hospital of the Fylde, Preston and Garstang Joint Board, at Singleton.

For Infectious Diseases, use is made of the Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Blackpool Corporation.

In both the above Institutions when use is made of them, payment is made at a rate per patient per week. The cost incurred during the year was £42.

Some changes of these arrangements are foreshadowed in the requirements lately indicated by the Ministry of Health.

Children's cases are usually treated at the Preston Royal Infirmary. Difficult maternity cases are treated by the Preston and Blackpool Maternity Hospitals.

The foregoing provision has been found adequate.

Infectious disease cases are taken to hospital by the Motor Ambulance belonging to the hospital. Other hospital cases go by privately-owned motor vehicles.

CHILD WELFARE

A Centre, under the management of the County Council, assisted by volunteer local lady helpers, is held at the Parochial Hall, Lancaster Road, at 2.0 p.m. on alternate Thursdays. A School Dental Clinic has also been started by the County Council at 7, Elletson Terrace.

The County Council also operate the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1937.

The District Nursing Association employing one District Nurse is affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

OFFICERS

The Council's Health Officers are as tabulated :

Office	Occupier	Remun- eration	Amount Contributed by C.C.	Whole or Part Time	Other Offices
Medical Officer of Health	S. A. Nield- Faulkner	60	30	Part	Public Vaccinator District Medical Officer.
Sanitary Inspector	H. Turner	200	100	Part	Surveyor.

If Veterinary Inspection is required a Veterinary Inspector is called in at the request of the M.O.H. Inspection of cattle for tuberculosis is carried out by the County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply: Most houses in your area are supplied by the Fylde Water Board, the supply being constant, adequate and pure. 16 houses, including 5 farms, draw their supplies from wells. Analysis were made of two such supplies during the year, one was found to be satisfactory, the other very doubtful.

Sewerage: The system continues to work well. The Roslyn Avenue sewer requires periodical flushing owing to its flat gradient. 111 houses by reason of distance from a sewer are not connected to the sewerage system.

Closet Accommodation: There are in the district 607 Water Closets, 1 Waste Water Closet, 98 Pail Closets, 27 Privy Closets, to 21 of which middens are attached.

There were 7 conversions to Water Closets during the year, 15 houses await conversion, and there are 46 houses which can be converted upon reasonable extensions to the system being made. 65 houses by reason of distance are not connectible to any sewer, but 11 of them have W.C. accommodation, discharging into cess-pools.

Refuse Collection: Collection is done by horse and refuse vehicle, this being rubber-tyred, with sliding-covers of low-loading height. From pails and privy closets a horse-drawn covered tank vehicle is utilised. Collection is made from 594 ashbins, 40 asphits, 98 pail closets, 10 middens and 21 privy middens. Occupiers of outlying farmsteads and houses make their own disposition of refuse. Eight ashpits have been replaced by bins during the year.

Refuse Disposal: The refuse is tipped on low-lying sites distant from houses and covered with soil stored from earthwork excavations in recent years, and which are stored in reserve for the purpose. Liquid refuse from cesspools, and the semi-liquid content of pails is spread upon arable fields after arrangement with the farmers.

The special cart was purchased in March, and the collection is facilitated, and done with greatly less dissemination of dust.

SANITARY INSPECTION

Your Inspector reports the making of 480 inspections during the year, to 226 premises, discovering 122 defects and nuisances 24 Informal notices and 70 statutory notices were issued in securing improvement or remedy, no legal proceedings being required. Amongst the less usual matters for an inspector's interest there was a bug disinfestation and a cleansing of domestic premises.

Statutory notices were served in respect of Housing Act, 1936 sec. 9 (repairs), 8 ; sec. 11 (demolition), 7 ; Sec. 26 (clearance order), 45 ; Sec. 54 (obstructive building), 1. Public Health Act, 1875 : Sec. 62 (Water Supply), 3 ; Sec. 91 (Nuisances), 2 ; Sec. 120 (Cleansing), 1 ; Sec. 157 (Byelaws), 2. Public Health Act, 1936 : Sec. 58 (amenity), 1.

Smoke Abatement: The single industrial chimney in the district did not require any action during the period of the year prior to its demolition.

Shops Acts: No action has been required affecting the 44 Shops in the urban district, as regards sanitary conveniences, temperature, etc.

Offensive Trades: No offensive trades are conducted in the district.

Fish Fryers: Three fish and chip restaurants are well conducted. Two of them are under one ownership.

Bed Bugs: The first infestation of which there is record occurred in one private rented house ; it was very small in extent, only 12 bugs being counted. Chelsea liquid, blow lamp, and stripping of wallpaper and skirtings were adequate.

There has been no instance of insect pest infestation in the Council houses, in which the standard of domestic splendour is favourably comparable to anything in the district.

Schools: Both schools are satisfactory. The unevenness of the playground, due to drainage improvements at Preesall School has been removed.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces: The 18 establishments in the district consist of Salt Works Power House, Corn Mill, 5 bakeries, blacksmith, cycle repairers, 2 garages, 3 joiners' shops, 2 paint shops and 2 printers. All are satisfactorily kept.

Houses let in Lodgings: The 2 premises of this description are satisfactory.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.: There are no premises of this kind continuously inhabited. The new provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, for licensing holiday vehicles will stabilise this position.

HOUSING

22 New houses were erected during the year, of which 14 were built by the Council and 8 by other persons without State assistance.

Inspection of houses was continued during the year, 227 visits being recorded for 170 houses. 23 Houses were inspected for record under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, requiring 40 visits. 32 Houses were found to be unfit for human habitation, but these are houses which have been mentioned in my previous Annual Reports, and action has been taken as follows : 1 reconditioned by the owner, demolition orders made for 2 ; reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, in operation for 1 house, and in preparation for 2 others. Clearance Orders made for 26.

47 Houses were found to be deficient in one respect or another and action taken either under Section 9 of the Act of 1936 (9 instances), or repair sought informally. 6 Houses were made fit by procedure under Section 9, one of them by the Council on the owner's behalf ; and by informal means repairs were obtained to 32 houses, a few being still outstanding.

3 Demolition Orders were made, and 11 houses were demolished under those Orders and in fulfilment of Clearance Orders.

There were still 5 houses to some extent overcrowded at the end of the year, involving seven families with a total of 37 persons. Two cases have ceased to be overcrowded since the last Report, and no new cases have arisen.

Housing Conditions: A classification of the houses in your area is as follows: Farmhouses 40, large houses 60, post-war houses 358, good pre-war cottages 121, old type habitable cottages 19 and 37 similar but due for replacement.

As regards availability of houses, it may be said generally that there is not an acute shortage. 23 Houses were vacant at the year end. Only 2 of these, however, are low-rented and are in a Clearance Area. When the houses in the Clearance Areas are replaced by new cottages with a slightly increased total accommodation the actual shortage of working-class houses will probably be met, and you have provided for this in the programme in respect of the Clearance Orders. Houses of a type suitable for working-class occupation are being built by private enterprise in Pilling Lanc, 4 being completed of 16 proposed.

Clearance Areas: Clearance Orders were issued in respect of 5 areas, involving 26 unfit houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Council are not an authority under the Food and Drugs Acts, consequently the routine examination of saleable foods and drugs and the taking of samples for analysis in your district is the duty of the Lancashire County Council. So also is the sampling of milk, and the veterinary inspection of dairy cattle, and the granting of licences for wholesale production of accredited milk. Six farmers are licensed for accredited milk.

There are 43 dairy farms registered with you. All but a negligible quantity of the milk sold locally is purveyed by six of the farmers, and two of the accredited milk producers supply the milk for school children. Samples of the latter were taken at each school quarterly, and forwarded for biological test for B Tuberculosis to the Pathological Laboratory or the Preston Royal Infirmary on behalf of the County Council. The presence of the bacillus was found in one instance, and means were taken immediately by the County Council for discovery of the affected animal.

None of the farms are licensed for production under the Milk. (Special Designations) Order, 1936, *i.e.*, for "Certified," or "Pasteurised" milk, etc.

Inspection of farm premises has been duly carried out. Dairy improvement has been effected at Bourbles Farm to meet "accredited" milk requirements, and a new shippon and dairy provided at Pointer Farm for the same purpose. Fully one-third of the number of the farms have cowsheds which accorded with the ideas current in the nineteenth century and earlier. On the other hand, another third of the number have very modern premises. I am not alone in the opinion that only the latter type will continue to do any useful milk business in the very near future.

Meat, etc. The bulk of the slaughters continues to be of pigs, a few lambs being added during summer. The number of live pigs taken by the Marketing Board is increasing. Of those killed locally, 112 were inspected, 4 showing affection with localised tuberculosis and 3 with disease other than tuberculosis ; in no case was seizure of a whole carcase necessary.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district. No instances of food poisoning occurred. The five bakehouses in the district are satisfactorily kept. The gathering of edible shellfish is not one of the local commercial undertakings ; the consumption in the district is from purchase in Fleetwood.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious diseases occurring during the year were : Measles 38, Whooping Cough 6, Scarlet Fever 5, Chicken-pox 1, Erysipelas 1, and Influenzal Pneumonia 1. Total 52. Two scarlet fever cases were removed to hospital. The pneumonia case was fatal. The epidemic of Measles occurred in the latter part of the year ; one school was closed for three weeks.

Diphtheria anti-toxin and puerperal polyvalent sera are readily obtainable at my surgery.

Patients with infectious diseases are removed to hospital only where nursing or isolation conditions are unsuitable at home.

Eight swabs from the throat were examined by the Clinical Research Association, of London.

Notification: Measles, Whooping Cough and Chicken-pox which have for some years been notifiable are not so now, notification being limited to the diseases mentioned in the statute.

Disinfection: 8 premises were disinfected by formaldehyde gas, some of these following measles. When patients are removed to hospital, bedding, etc., which has been exposed to infection is sent to the steam disinfector belonging to the hospital.

Tuberculosis: One new case, non-respiratory, in a female of the 20-25 age group, was notified.

No action has been required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 ; nor the Public Health Act, 1925, with regard to compulsory removal to hospital.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

The chief improvements effected are in connection with housing, namely, the completion of 14 new houses for the re-housing of persons displaced by demolitions, and the removal of the long-suffered obstructive building the Church Club House. The amenity value of improved streets has effects not readily assessable on public health and the great improvement of the Esplanade must be reckoned as a public health benefit of more than local effect.

The requirements still unfulfilled have figured in previous reports, namely, further re-housing provision, sewer extensions to facilitate further conversions, and the metalling of back streets as a hygienic measure.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. A. NIELD-FAULKNER.

